

Violent Crime Victimization

Adolescents are the victims of violent acts in the home, at school, and in the community. Violent crime includes rape or sexual assault, aggravated and simple assaults, and robbery.

■ During the period 1992–97 an average of approximately 3.4 million adolescents 12–19 years of age were reported to be victims of violent crime each year. Sixty-five percent of the victimizations were classified as simple assaults, 21 percent as aggravated assaults, 10 percent as robbery, and 4 percent as rape and sexual assault. The proportions for aggravated assault and for robbery were somewhat higher for male adolescents than for female adolescents; there were more female than male victims (10 percent) of rape and sexual assault.

■ The 1992–97 overall rate of violent victimizations for male adolescents was 50 percent higher than for female adolescents. Among the youngest adolescents, male victimization rates were nearly twice those for females; however, the disparity narrowed with increasing age. Among males there was no variation in the rates by age; among females adolescents 18–19 years of age were more likely to be victims of violence than those 12–13 years.

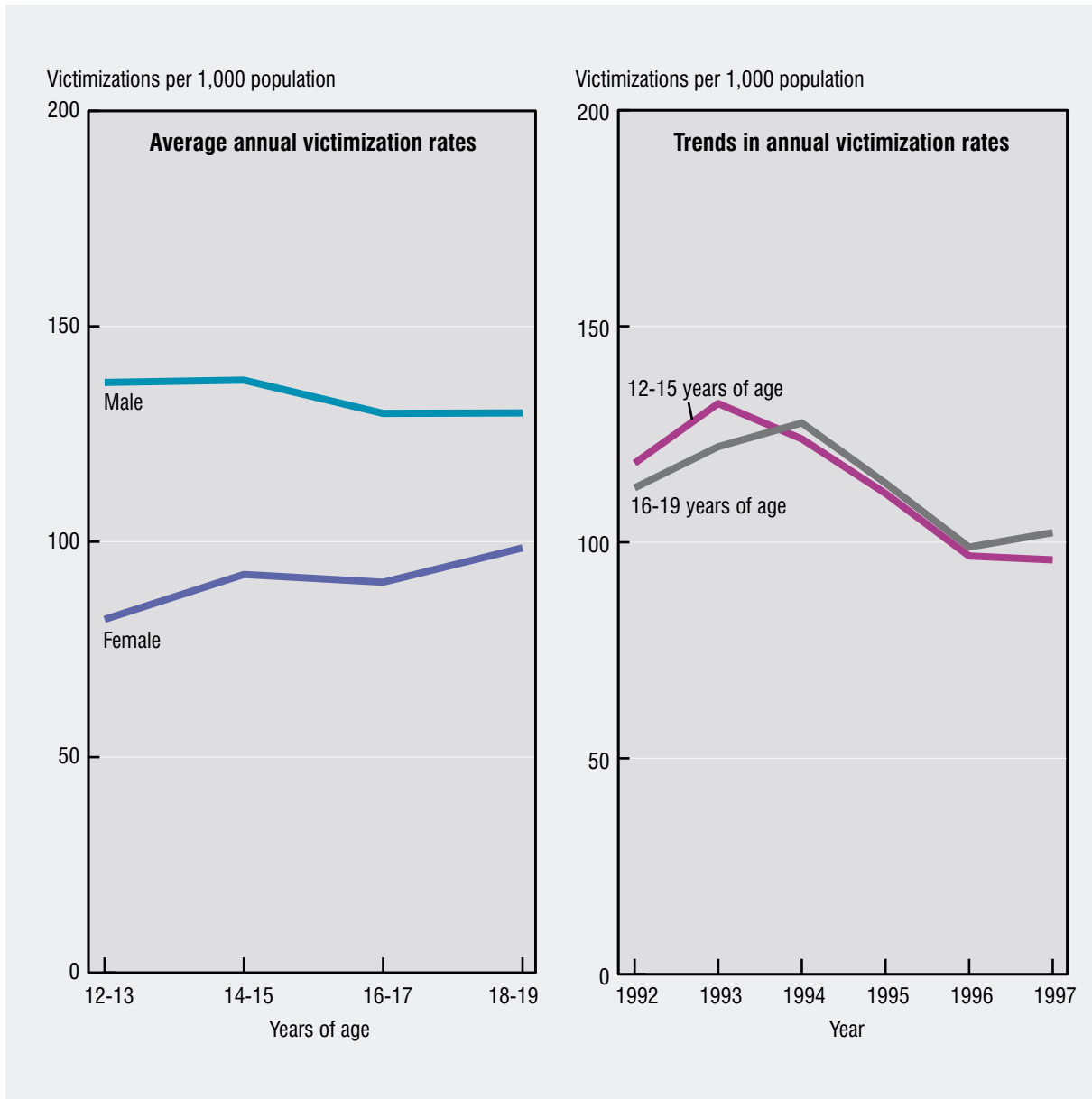
■ Among female adolescents 12–19 years of age the rates for rape and sexual assault increased with age (data not shown). The reported rates for older adolescents were about twice those for younger adolescents. Overall, female adolescents and young adult women are four times as likely to be victims of sexual assault as women in all other age groups (1).

■ From 1992 to 1997 the rate of violent crime victimization for adolescents 12–15 years and 16–19 years decreased. Declines were noted for each of the major categories of victimization.

Reference

1. Rickert VI, et al. Date rape among adolescents and young adults. *J Pediatr Adolesc Gynecol* 11(4):167–75. 1998.

Figure 15. Violent crime victimization rates among adolescents 12–19 years of age, by age and sex: United States, 1992–97



NOTES: See Technical Notes for survey methods. See Data Table for data points graphed.

SOURCE: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Department of Justice. National Crime Victimization Survey.